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Police Science Technical Abstracts and Notes

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POLICE SCIENCE TECHNICAL ABSTRACTS AND NOTES

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Diagnostic Value of the "Finger Stain" in the Marihuana Addict—Padron, José A. Diaz, M.D. *The Laboratory Digest*. (Gradwohl) St. Louis, Mo., 12 (1) : 1948. A method to determine a toxicomania diagnosis of a marihuana addict who is not in an acute or subacute phase of the poisoning consists of a gross examination of the stains or "finger spots" of the marihuana addict and an identification of the active principle of the resin of the Cannabis. It is claimed that the Ghamrawy Reaction is more sensitive than the Beam test. The reagent is composed of one gram of p-dimethylaminobenzaldehyde in five cc. of sulfuric acid and one cc. water. Extract stain with petroleum ether, evaporate to dryness, treat with above reagent. Positive reaction indicated by rapid development of wine red coloration in the form of traces or grooves, changing to blue on the addition of water. Can also be used to identify brownish-green resin deposits in the interdental region at the borders of the teeth in addition to identification of the marihuana plant. Nicotine stains do not give the same reaction. (Contributed by Ralph Turner, Michigan State College).

Dangerous Gun and Cartridge Combinations—Certain combinations of guns and cartridges are extremely dangerous and occasionally will come to the attention of a firearms technician in a death or injury resulting from the bursting of a weapon. Some of the combinations to be avoided are listed in the Dope Bag of *The American Rifleman*, 96 : 52 (May, 1948). Particularly potent is the danger of inserting a 20 gauge shell in a 12 gauge shotgun and later inserting a 12 gauge shell. The practice of carrying both 12 and 20 gauge shells in the shooter's pocket has caused several serious accidents or deaths.

Manufacture of .22 Caliber Cartridges—The May issue of *The American Rifleman* (96 : 12-15, May, 1948) contains a well illustrated article on the manufacture of .22 caliber cartridges at the Western Cartridge Company plant at East Alton, Illinois. The essential steps in the process are briefly described and illustrated with photographs.

Courtesy Courses For Police Officers—John Kelso, writing in *Vox-Cop*, 5 : 1 (June, 1948), describes a public relation program undertaken in the Massachusetts State Police Department for the purpose of eliminating those occasional incidents which embitter the public against law enforcement officers. Particular attention is given to the manner in which telephone calls are handled and the manner in which traffic violators are handled. This program is to be repeated annually to every officer in the department.

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